(c) the results of any pilot projects already undertaken for providing telemedicine in distant locations; and

(d) the details of similar framework created in some other countries and highlights of their experiences in the field?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, as per the information given by the Department of Information Technology, a Technical Working Group on Telemedicine Standardization set up by that Department has prepared a document "Recommended Guidelines and Standards for Practice of Telemedicine in India". The document includes introduction to telemedicine, definition and concepts, standards required for hardware, software, data exchange and clinical devices security aspects and telemedicine process guidelines. System requirement for different classes and level of telemedicine centres have also been suggested.

(c) Some pilot projects have been undertaken by DIT to set up Telemedicine facilities in different parts of the country. Under the pilot project Cancer/NET in Kerala about 4.207 cancer patients and under the Telemedicine Project on the Development of Telemedicine for Tropical Diseases in West Bengal about 1000 patients have undergone teleconsultation. As of now 34 remote/District/Medical college/Mobile hospitals are connected to 12 super speciality hospitals located in major cities. The Department of Space have also taken up telemedicine pilot project as a proof of concept technology demonstration in various States of India like Jammu & Kashmir, Orissa, North Eastern Region, Lakshadweep Islands, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Kerala, Karnataka, etc.

(d) Details of such a framework created in other countries are not available with the Government.

Medical Bills of pensioners

1326. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that reimbursement of medical bills pertaining to many pensioners sent by North Avenue Dispensary under CGHS have not been made so far;

(b) the number and details of such bills pending and since when;

(c) whether it is also a fact that these bills are pending even after repeated reminders by North Avenue Dispensary;

(d) the reasons for not reimbursing these bills even after such a long period;

(e) by when Government intends to clear these pending bills; and

(f) whether such pendency exist in other dispensaries also; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) No, Sir, All the reimbursement claims of pensioners sent by North Avenue dispensary have been settled.

(b) to (e) In view of (a) above, the questions do not arise.

(f) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Checking of pesticide level in soft drinks

1327. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have devised any mechanism to check the pesticide level in Colas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any public health crisis is caused due to endorsement of unhealthy foods and snacks by celebrities;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether Government have taken any action in respect of contaminated Colas which were endorsed by celebrities; if so, the details of the action taken against the companies as well as the celebrities?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (e) At present, limits for Pesticide Residues have not been prescribed for sweetened carbonated water which includes all the soft drinks. However, a draft notification proposing the requirements